## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 EB-08 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 INT-05 //068 W

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P 130655Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3224
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
NOAA U.S. DEPT COMMERCE FOB
JUNEAU, ALASKA

**UNCLAS SEOUL 2979** 

NOAA U.S. DEPT. COMMERCE, FOB JUNEAU, ALASKA FOR MR. WALT JONES C/O REGIONAL DIRECTOR NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EFIS, KS

SUBJECT: ROK POLLACK FISHERY

1. IN IN 1976 14 FISHING AND 8 PROCESSING PLANTS WERE INVOLVED IN ROK POLLACK INDUSTRY. MOST OF FISH WERE FROM KAMCHATKA (ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF TOTAL POLLACK LANDINGS). CATCHES WERE AS FOLLOWS FROM THAT REGION:

1973 - 226,124 MT 1974 - 246,321 MT

1975 - 357,321 MT

1976 - 347,650 MT

PUSAN IS BY FAR THE MOST IMPRTANT PORT OF ENTRY OF THE PLLACK. 50 PCT OF POLLACK LANDED IS USED DOMESTICALLY AND 50 IS FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPORT MARKET ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO UNITED STATES. MRS. PAUL'S HAS BEEN BUYING ABOUT 70 PCT OF POLLACK EXPORTED. FISH TO BE EXPORTED ARE USUALLY LANDED SEMI-FILLETTED OR HEADED AND GUTTED AND THAT TO BE USED DOMESTICALLY LANDED IN THE ROUND.

2. AVERAGE PRICE PAID TO FISHING COMPANIES BY PROCESSORS

LAST YEAR WAS \$180.00/MT. SUMMER PRICESIS LOWER BECAUSE
LESS POLLACK IS USED DOMESTICALLY IN SUMMER. AN AMERICAN
BUYER IS NOW PAYING OVER 50 CENTS A LB FOR FILLETTED FISH
BLOCKS, SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER THAN PRICE A YEAR AGO AND PRICE
CONTINUES TO RISE. PRICES OF ALL FISHERY PROCUCTS AT FRESH
FISH WHOLESALE MARKETED SEOUL HAVE JUMPED 17 PCT IN LAST YEAR.

- 3. FUTURE OF POLLACK INDUSTRY IS UNCERTAIN BUT LIKELIHOOD IS THAT MANY BANKRUPTCIES WILL OCCUR IN BOTH FISHING AND PROCESSING SEGMENTS. FISHING COMPANIES ARE NOW LOOKING AT NEW ZEALAND, MAURITANIA, ARGENTINA, BERMUDA TO BOSTON AREA OUTSIDE 200 MILE LIMITS AND ARABIAN SEA AS POSSIBLE AREAS FOR USE OF POLLACK FLEET. FLEET CONSISTS OF ABOUT 60 VESSELS OF TOTAL GROSS TONNAGE OF 115,000 TONS. BY FAR THE LARGEST FLEET IS THAT OF KOREA WONYANG.
- 4. PROCESING COSTS INTO FISHBLOCKS APPEAR MINIMAL. ONE PROCESSING COMPANY PAYS 16 CENTS TO 20 CENTS ON HOUR FOR WORK ON THE FILLET LINE. ONE INDIVIDUAL WILL WORK ALL BUT TWO DAYS A MONTH. 10 HOURS A DAY.
- 5. PROCESSORS, FISHING COMPANIES AND ASSOCIATIONS WERE OF THE ACCORD THAT ROK NEEDS ABOUT 350,000 MT OF POLLACK A YEAR OVER THE PRESENT ALLOTTMENT FIVEN BY THE U.S. FOR THEY SEE LITTLE HOPE THAT ON KAMCHATKA FISHERY WILL AGAIN BE ALLOWED.
  6. ANSWERS TO REMAINING QUESTIONS IN REFTEL WILL BE PROVIDED IN REGFISHATT TRIP REPORT.
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## Message Attributes

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